



March 20, 2007

Ms. Tracie Billington
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Planning and Local Assistance
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1115-1
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Ref: **ANTELOPE VALLEY REGION'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
ADMINISTRATION OF INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER
MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS**

Bishop Henry W. Hearn
Mayor

Ed Sileo
Vice Mayor

Jim Jeffra
Council Member

Ronald D. Smith
Council Member

Andrew D. Visokey
Council Member

Robert S. LaSala
City Manager

Dear Ms. Billington:

This letter is a follow-up to our comment letter dated February 5, 2007, recommending the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to allocate the \$196.2 million in remaining Proposition 50, Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program funds to the Round Two funding cycle.

Based on staff recommendations provided with the SWRCB's March 20, 2007, meeting agenda, the SWRCB will consider awarding an additional \$132 million in Proposition 50 IRWM program funds to Round One applicants. Assuming this recommendation is adopted, we urge the State to consider the following actions to minimize the potential impacts to Southern California regions including the Antelope Valley:

1. Consolidate the remaining DWR and SWRCB Proposition 50 IRWM program funds, totaling approximately \$64 million, and designate the funds for Southern California regions to achieve an equitable allocation between Northern and Southern California.
2. Award Proposition 50 IRWM program funds to regions that have not previously received IRWM grants.
3. Allow adoption of IRWM plans for future implementation grants upon award of funding rather than at the time of application.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our recommendations for the State's consideration in administering future IRWM program funds and look forward to working with DWR and the SWRCB to address our local water resources issues. Please feel free to contact me at (661) 723-6044 if you have any questions or concerns.

Very truly yours,

James R. Williams, PE
Public Works Director

JRW/vp